Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) ~~In a computer system including a host computer, a disk drive host interface and a disk drive having a disk storage medium with a first range of disk drive host interface addressable locations, a~~A method for installing a mailbox file in a disk drive ~~associated with the disk storage medium~~, the ~~installation~~ method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

obtaining a disk drive access key from an access key server~~, the access key being generated by the access key server as a function of~~ based at least in part on an identifying characteristic of ~~the~~ a disk drive;

creating a mailbox file stored in ~~the first range of~~ at least one host interface addressable location~~s~~ of the disk drive using the disk drive access key, the mailbox file being executable under control of the disk drive ~~obtained from the access key server~~; and

notifying the disk drive of ~~a~~ the at least one host interface addressable location of the mailbox file ~~in the first range of addressable locations, wherein the disk drive can perform an executable function characterized by contents of the mailbox file~~.

2.   (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein the ~~function is used to access~~ mailbox file is associated with a ~~second~~ range of ~~addressable~~ storage locations on a disk storage medium of the disk drive that are not ~~disk drive~~ host interface addressable ~~and that are contained on the disk storage medium~~.

3.   (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~according to~~ of claim 2, ~~wherein the access key is required for an application program to~~ further comprising: accessing the ~~second~~ range of ~~addressable~~ storage locations via the mailbox file using the disk drive access key.

4.   (Currently Amended) ~~In a computer system including a host computer, a disk drive host interface and a disk drive having a disk controller, a~~ A method for ~~accessing~~ using a mailbox file stored in a disk drive ~~associated with a first range of disk drive host interface addressable locations~~, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

~~recognizing~~ receiving a command at a disk drive from a host ~~operating system~~ computer, the command referencing at least one ~~in reference to the mailbox file associated with the first range of disk drive~~ host interface addressable location s in which a mailbox file is stored; and

~~responding to the command by performing within the disk controller an executable function characterized by the contents of~~ executing the mailbox file under control of the disk drive in response to the command.

5.   (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~according to~~ of claim 4, wherein the at least one ~~first range of disk drive~~ host interface addressable location s ~~refers to~~ is a storage ~~space allocated in at least one of~~ location on a disk storage medium of the disk drive ~~and a computer memory associated with the disk controller~~.

6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Canceled)

8.   (Canceled)

9.   (New)   A method for accessing hidden storage locations on a disk drive, the method comprising:

receiving a command at a disk drive from a host computer, the command referencing at least one host interface addressable location on a disk storage medium of the disk drive;

identifying at least one hidden storage location on the disk storage medium that is not host interface addressable, the at least one hidden storage location associated with the at least one host interface addressable location; and

storing data associated with the command received from the host computer in the at least one hidden storage location in response to the command.